



## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Evaluations of Coastal Zone Management Act Programs – State Coastal Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before [Insert date 60 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [JJessup@doc.gov](mailto:JJessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to L. Christine McCay, (301) 563-1163 or [chris.mccay@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.mccay@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for a new information collection.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (CZMA; 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*) requires that state coastal management programs and national estuarine research reserves developed pursuant to the CZMA and approved by the Secretary of Commerce be evaluated periodically. This request is to collect information to accomplish those evaluations.

Section 1458 of the CZMA and implementing regulations at 15 CFR 923, Subpart L, require that state coastal management programs be evaluated concerning the extent to which the state has implemented and enforced the program approved by the Secretary, addressed the coastal management needs identified in 16 U.S.C. 1452(2)(A) through (K), and adhered to the terms of any grant, loan, or cooperative agreement funded under the CZMA. Section 1461(f) of the CZMA and implementing regulations at 15 CFR 921, Subpart E, require that national estuarine research reserves be evaluated with regard to their operation and management, including education and interpretive activities, the research being conducted within the reserve, and be evaluated in accordance with section 1458 of the CZMA and procedures set forth in 15 CFR 923.

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) conducts periodic evaluations of the 34 coastal management programs and 28 research reserves

and produces written findings for each evaluation. OCRM has access to documents submitted in cooperative agreement applications, performance reports, and certain documentation required by the CZMA and implementing regulations. However, additional information from each coastal management program and research reserve, as well as information from the program and reserve partners and stakeholders with whom each works, is necessary to evaluate against statutory and regulatory requirements. Different information collection subsets are necessary for 1) coastal management programs, 2) their partners and stakeholders, 3) research reserves, and 4) their partners and stakeholders.

## **II. Method of Collection**

Coastal program and reserve manager respondents will receive information requests/questionnaires via e-mail, and submittals will be made via e-mail. Partners and stakeholders of coastal management programs and of reserves will receive a link to a web-based survey tool (Survey Monkey) and respond through the survey tool.

## **III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (request for a new information collection).

*Affected Public:* State, local, or tribal government; not-for-profit institutions; business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 468.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 60 hours per CZMA program manager; 30 minutes per partner/stakeholder.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,008 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

#### **IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 9, 2012

**Gwellnar Banks,**

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

**Billing Code: 3510-08**

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